



Water Quality NewsFlash

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Blue Ribbon Panel Report – SWRCB schedules meetings – As discussed in *NewsFlash 06-26*, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) convened a panel, formally known as the Storm Water Panel of Experts, to consider the feasibility of establishing numeric effluent limits or other quantifiable limits for use in stormwater permits. The panel issued its report in late June and the SWRCB has now scheduled two public meetings to receive comments: July 21 in Sacramento and July 28 in LA. The SWRCB will also receive written comments until the 28th. Posted: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/index.html#news>

Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) – SWRCB schedules meetings on proposed ASBS Special Protections – Currently, the Ocean Plan bans storm water discharges into ASBS. The proposed protections would allow these existing discharges to continue. The protections would be included as conditions of an exception to the Ocean Plan granted by the SWRCB. Existing storm water discharges to an ASBS would be allowed as long as they are “composed of natural precipitation runoff,” which is defined as discharges that do not cause a statistically significant increase in pollutant concentrations in the receiving water as compared to a designated reference stream. It also appears that pollutant concentrations in the storm water runoff itself could not exceed those in the reference stream. Other requirements would also apply.

Stakeholder meetings will be held to seek input on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in a mitigated negative declaration for the special protections. The stakeholder meetings will be on August 1 (Santa Rosa), August 8 (Los Angeles), August 15 (Monterey). Comments are due August 15. Posted: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/asbs.html>

Model Ocean Discharge Monitoring – Workshops scheduled – The SWRCB is considering amendments to the Ocean Plan (Appendix III) to address storm water monitoring as well as monitoring for industrial and municipal (sewage) wastewater. The SWRCB will hold the workshops on the draft proposal in the afternoon at the same locations and dates of the ASBS meetings discussed above. Comments are due August 15. To be posted at: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plnspols/oplans/index.html>

Policy for Chlorine – Revision posted – The SWRCB has revised the proposed *Total Residual Chlorine and Chlorine-Produced Oxidants Policy* and accompanying revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED). This statewide policy would pre-empt existing Regional Board policies. Storm water systems are sometimes impacted by chlorinated water when potable water distribution systems are flushed or otherwise drained into storm sewers. The policy requires best management practices but not numeric effluent limits for these situations. Comments are due July 14. <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/iswp/chlorine.html>

WQ NewsFlash is a weekly update of storm water and related news for the Department. *Verify information before taking action on these bulletins.* Contact Betty Sanchez, Betty_Sanchez@dot.ca.gov (916) 653-2115, or Fred Krieger, (510) 843-7889, fkrieger@msn.com with questions or to be added or deleted from e-mail list. Posted online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/stormwater/publicat/newsflash/index.htm>